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SUPPORT FOR AND COLLABORATION WITH THE JOINT AND CO-SPONSORED UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV AND AIDS (UNAIDS)

Report of the Administrator

I. PURPOSE

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to discussions held at the annual session 1995 of the Executive Board whereby an item on UNDP support to the establishment of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) be added to the agenda of the third regular session 1995. Owing to time constraints, this item was moved to the agenda of the first regular session of 1996.

II. BACKGROUND

2. Since the annual session 1995 of the Executive Board, UNDP has observed with great pleasure the continuing progress made by the Executive Director of the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) and his staff in preparing for the formal establishment of UNAIDS on 1 January 1996. During this period, UNDP has continued to support the efforts of the Executive Director and his team in the development of the Programme.

III. UNDP ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF UNAIDS

3. The Administrator and his senior staff have continued to be in frequent contact with the Executive Director and his colleagues on matters relating to the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations (CCO), the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) and the development of UNAIDS.

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4. UNDP has seconded a senior staff member to UNAIDS and a second secondment is under discussion. UNDP is also reviewing contributions in cash and kind to global UNAIDS activities for 1996-1997.

5. UNDP also continues to work closely with UNAIDS staff responsible for developing an approach at the country level.

6. Pursuant to discussions at the annual session 1995 of the Executive Board, the Administrator has written to all resident coordinators to bring them up to date on UNAIDS and has requested them to begin in-country consultations on how best to support and/or strengthen United Nations theme groups on HIV/AIDS.

7. In the interest of further developing and understanding how best to work at the country level, UNAIDS coordinated a series of three country visits (to Honduras, Viet Nam and Zambia) carried out by teams including UNAIDS staff members, co-sponsor representatives, government officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations. UNDP contributed actively to the preparations of these country visits, co-facilitated the briefing session and participated in the mission to Zambia.

8. In collaboration with UNAIDS and as directed by the Economic and Social Council, UNDP has continued, during the transition period, to undertake its HIV and development programme activities, including:

(a) Programme development, support and backstopping to integrate HIV activities more effectively into key UNDP programming areas;

(b) Activities carried out in consultation with UNAIDS, including support for HIV-related networks, capacity-building for socio-economic research relevant to programme development, defining approaches to minimize the socio-economic impact of the epidemic on development and training on HIV, governance and development;

(c) Support for the resident coordinator system in the establishment and strengthening of the thematic groups on HIV and AIDS; and

(d) Collaboration with UNAIDS and partner organizations in the United Nations HIV network through participation in global and regional-level meetings and ongoing consultations and sharing of experiences and information with UNAIDS, co-sponsors and other United Nations partners.

9. UNDP has given high priority to strengthening its country offices and to developing the capacity of resident representatives to mainstream HIV activities in a development context. In this effort, the 22 HIV and Development National Professional Officers (NPOs) are playing an important role. With the establishment of UNAIDS, UNDP has discussed their role in country-level coordination with the Executive Director and his team, according to the needs of UNAIDS and of the specific country. He has agreed to proceed on a case-by-case basis.

10. UNDP is working actively with UNAIDS and its other co-sponsoring partners to strengthen the implementation of the United Nations HIV and AIDS personnel policy.

IV. UNDP PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEES OF UNAIDS

11. Prior to the sixth meeting of the UNAIDS Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations, a working meeting took place on 6-7 October. During this meeting, co-sponsors examined several of the key documents prepared for consideration by the CCO. These included the draft UNAIDS country support framework and the UNAIDS strategic plan, 1996-2000. It was agreed that these documents would clearly reflect the role and responsibilities within the UNAIDS framework of each co-sponsor now and in the future.

12. The sixth meeting of the CCO was held in New York on 11 October. At this meeting, agreement in principle was reached on a final text of the UNAIDS Memorandum of Understanding. It is expected that all co-sponsors will have signed the memorandum by the November PCB meeting.

13. Detailed financial information on HIV-related activities in 1994-1995 has been provided to UNAIDS by UNDP, as shown in the table.

HIV and development-related activities and staff support: approved budget 1994-1995

(in millions of United States dollars)

	1994	1995	Total
Country IPFs	14.331	38.558	52.889
Regional IPFs	2.695	3.530	6.225
Global/inter-regional/ others a/	4.689	7.985	12.674
Total	21.715	50.073	71.788

a/ Includes Special Programme Reserves TSS-1 and cost-sharing.

14. An important objective of UNDP activities, undertaken as part of the United Nations system response, has been to strengthen understanding of the epidemic as a developmental issue. UNDP has argued that development is causally related to the spread of HIV infection; that development affects what is feasible in terms of the response to the epidemic, and that efforts to strengthen the development performance of countries can themselves worsen as well as improve the possible policy and programming responses to the epidemic. Unless these developmental

parameters are adjusted, through a strengthening of national policy and programming responses, there will be an intensification of the social and economic costs of the epidemic that will increasingly undermine all the national and international efforts to achieve sustainable human development.

15. UNDP has been holding ongoing discussions with UNAIDS and the other co-sponsors to fine-tune planned HIV activities for 1996-1997 and to ensure enhanced coordination in this area. UNDP and other co-sponsors are also consulting with UNAIDS and with one another on regional activities and will ensure that efforts to secure additional financing for these activities will be fully coordinated.

16. UNDP will continue in its firm commitment to work consistently and in close collaboration with UNAIDS and its other co-sponsoring partners to respond more effectively to the HIV epidemic in a unified and coordinated manner.

V. ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

17. The Executive Board may wish to:

Take note of the present report.